

noncustodial parents. One such child, Mikey Kale from Nevada, was abducted by his biological father and taken to war-torn Croatia. Mikey was just 6 years old at the time and his parents were recently divorced.

Their divorce decree gave sole legal custody to Mikey's mom, but his father, who had visitation but no custodial rights, was able to obtain a passport for Mikey and subsequently and successfully abduct him, kidnapping him to Croatia.

Fortunately, Mikey Kale made it back to his mom. Yet, it is an inconceivable but irrefutable fact that once a child is taken from the U.S., it is nearly impossible to get that child returned. Clearly, prevention is the key for protecting our children from international parental child abduction.

I have an amendment today on the floor to help safeguard against these family tragedies, an amendment to make it more difficult for would-be child abductors to obtain passports for children by ensuring certain requirements are met before the issuance of a passport for a child under the age of 14. I urge all of my colleagues to support passage of this amendment, an amendment to protect America's children.

GOP TAX PLAN

(Mr. CROWLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, the massive tax cut of the Republican Party nearly three-quarters of \$1 trillion is totally irresponsible. It stands in the way of strengthening Medicare and Social Security, and threatens the progress we have made in eliminating the deficit and reducing the national debt. Republican tax breaks means higher deficits, higher interest rates, and lower economic growth.

The Republican bill also declares class warfare against middle-class families. Citizens for Tax Justice finds the GOP tax plan unfairly targets its benefits towards the richest. The wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers would receive 45 percent of the benefits from this tax break. It ultimately would receive an annual average tax cut of \$48,000 in 1999 dollars, Mr. Speaker, 384 times as much as the bottom three-fifths of taxpayers.

In addition, by failing to include a reasonable and effective school construction initiative in the tax bill, the Republican Congress proves they are more concerned about big tax breaks for the wealthy than providing relief for American school districts. The single focus by Republicans on a big tax break for the rich senselessly blocks common sense tax incentives that would provide crucial aid to America's school.

Republican priorities put wealthy Americans above the needs of our children.

DEATH TAX DESERVES TO DIE

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Chairman, the death tax deserves to die. This unfair tax discourages savings and investment, destroys family-owned businesses and has a chilling effect on capital formation and job creation.

Even more disturbing is the fact that the death tax is imposed on income that has already been taxed once and maybe twice. While every American has a duty to pay their taxes, it is simply wrong for the Federal Government to tax the same money again and again.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority is committed to eliminating the death tax. Over the next decade, our tack relief plan would reduce the death tax until it is entirely phased out.

I implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to stand up for the average American, small business owners, family farmers, and other over-taxed Americans by supporting this common sense tax cut.

THE RICH GET RICHER

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, today this people's House is going to vote on a tax cut: the rich get richer.

The Republican leadership says their tax cut is for the middle class, but that is clearly not true. Under their plan, 100 million taxpayers whose income falls below \$65,000 a year, added together, get less than half the tax relief given to 1.25 million taxpayers whose incomes starts at \$300,000 a year and ends at Bill Gates.

In fact, under the rich-get-very-much-richer-plan that the Republicans will pass today, the richest 1 percent of Americans will get more in tax cuts than the 95 percent of taxpayers, all 120 million of them put together whose income falls below the income of a Member of Congress. It is pure propaganda to assert that this plan is for working Americans, the middle class, that needs a tax cut.

In a Congress where cynicism is the norm, this is the most cynical action I have seen in more than 8 years in Congress. But, it is written in the scriptures: as you sow, so shall you reap.

SHARE OF TAX PAYMENTS REMAINS UNCHANGED UNDER GOP PLAN

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like my colleagues to look at this graph. The folks on this side of the

aisle say the tax cut is for the wealthy, but let me show my colleagues: the yellow line is before tax cuts, the red is after tax cuts. If one is making \$10,000 to \$20,000, one is only paying 2 percent of the overall taxes for this country and that is the same before or after our tax cuts, and if one is making \$100,000 and above, one is paying 46 percent of the tax burden of this Nation, before tax cuts or after tax cuts.

So our proposal that these folks are saying are for the wealthy makes no difference in how much these folks pay after or before our tax cuts. So in the main, one has to realize that the burden of this tax is going to those folks that are very wealthy, who are making between \$100 and \$200,000. So when we hear on that side of the aisle that this is tax cuts for the wealthy, I say that the wealthy are going to continue to pay 46 percent of the tax burden before our tax cut or after our tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the Democrats, can someone on this side of the aisle tell us what part of the tax burden they should pay?

BUREAUCRATIC NINCOMPOOPS DRAFTING FOREIGN POLICY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, reports say that Russia is helping Iran to build a missile capable of hitting America. Let us check this out. America spends billions on Star Wars to protect us from a missile attack. Then America, out of the goodness of our heart, helps the Russian space program by giving them billions that they cannot raise for themselves.

In addition, America gives billions of dollars in foreign aid to Russia. Think about it. Then Russia turns around and gives American foreign aid money to Iran to build missiles targeted at American cities. Beam me up. I ask, I ask, what bureaucratic nincompoop is drafting these foreign policies? It must be Boris Yeltsin.

I yield back the madness of this stupid foreign policy.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF CINCINNATI'S JOHN ROMANO

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment this morning to note the tragic and untimely passing last week of a good friend and a good man, John Romano, of Cincinnati, Ohio, a victim of Hodgkins Disease at the young age of 41 years.

John was a small businessman, a true entrepreneur. He was active in his community, giving much of his time. He served as a member of the North College Hill city council for over 10 years. John was instrumental in my being in